NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE MOSS TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY MODEL SYSTEM

Brain-*e*-News

SPRING 2011

RESOURCES

MossRehab Resource Net
www.mossresourcenet.org

The Center for Outcome Measurement in Brain Injury
www.tbims.org/combi

Brain Injury Association of America
www.biausa.org
1-800-444-6443

Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania
www.biapa.org
Brain Injury Resource Line
1-866-635-7097

Brain Injury Association of New Jersey
www.bianj.org
1-732-738-1002
Family Helpline:
1-800-669-4323

Brain Injury Association of Delaware
www.biausa.org/Delaware/bia.htm
1-800-411-0505

Pennsylvania Department of Health Brain Injury Helpline
1-866-412-4755
TTY 1-877-232-7640

Support Group: Brain Injury Empowerment Group
2nd Monday of each month
6:00-7:30 PM
Moss Rehab Elkins Park
60 E. Township Line Rd.
Elkins Park PA
Contact: Roberta Brooks
(215)456-9901, ext. 69209

Dr. Miriam Segal Joins Brain Injury Unit

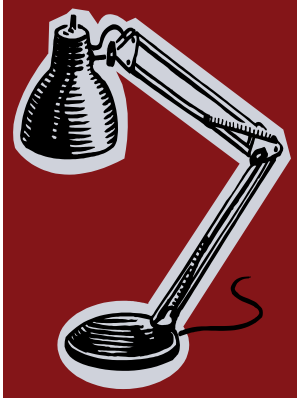
The Drucker Brain Injury Center (DBIC) of MossRehab is very excited to announce the addition of Miriam Segal, MD to the traumatic brain injury (TBI) clinical team. Dr. Segal received her MD degree from the New York University School of Medicine and completed her Residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, where she also served as Chief Resident. She then completed a Fellowship in TBI rehabilitation at the JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute. Before joining DBIC, Dr. Segal spent 3 years focused on TBI rehabilitative care at the Penn Institute for Rehabilitation Medicine.

In addition to being a thoroughly trained clinician, Dr. Segal has published professional articles related to brain injury rehabilitation as well as rehabilitation public policy. She is also active in advocacy for persons with TBI and their families, as evidenced by her service on the Board of the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania. We welcome Dr. Segal to DBIC and the Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System!

Headaches: A Common Symptom After Head Injury

Headaches are a big problem for many people who have experienced a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Since 2007, MossRehab and the Moss TBI Model System (TBIMS) have been part of a multi-center TBIMS project examining the "natural history" of headaches after TBI. Natural history studies are important for documenting how important a clinical problem is, and how it changes over time, so that the most effective treatment studies may be designed. In the natural history of headache study, 452 patients were enrolled in 7 inpatient rehabilitation units, including the one at MossRehab, and followed over 1 year to find out who develops post-traumatic headaches, how many people get them, and how long they last. We also gathered information on the types of headaches that were most common, and what patients did to relieve them. (Continued on page 2)

Ongoing Research Efforts



Study of a Drug For Disorders of Consciousness (DOCs)

The Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute is conducting a nationwide clinical study of the drug zolpidem (Ambien) as a treatment that can temporarily restore consciousness to some patients with prolonged unconsciousness after TBI. This study, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, follows up on a smaller study published by John Whyte, MD, PhD and Robin Myers PT, DPT, NCS, that demonstrated this effect. When patients in the current study are identified who respond to the drug, they are invited to participate in a more detailed sub-study intended to try to understand what about their brains accounts for reversible unconsciousness, given that other patients do not show this response. In this phase of the research, patients who have responded to the drug are transported to Philadelphia, where they are hospitalized on a research unit for 3 days. During that time, they have structural and functional MRI data collected as well as "event related potential" (ERP) data. ERP data (similar to EEG) assesses the brain's electrical response to specific sounds or commands, and may shed light on what the brain is processing, even when the patient fails to respond. To date, 3 drug responders have been studied in this way, and the plan is to study about 5 more and also to study a sample of similar individuals who do not respond to zolpidem.

If your family member was diagnosed with a disorder of consciousness (vegetative or minimally conscious state) more than 4 months ago, is at least 18 years of age, and is medically stable, he/she may be eligible to participate in this study. Patients already known to respond to zolpidem may also be able to participate in this last phase. Participants will be provided study medication, screenings, and testing at no cost. For more information, please contact Riya Rajan, the study coordinator, at 215-663-6456 or participants@einstein.edu.

Headaches After Head Injury (continued from page 1)

It turned out that almost ¾ of patients (71%) reported headaches at some point during the first year -although some didn't develop headaches until several months after injury. Risk factors for the development of headaches after TBI included a history of headaches prior to the TBI, and women reported more headaches than men. Surprisingly perhaps, the likelihood of having headaches after TBI was not related to the severity of injury. The first journal article related to this study is being reviewed for publication, and we expect that several other articles will also be written in the near future.

Institute of Medicine Committee

Tessa Hart, PhD, Moss TBIMS Director, and John Whyte, MD, PhD, Co-Director, were both invited to participate in a newly commissioned Institute of Medicine panel in Washington, DC. Dr. Whyte was invited to be a member of the Committee on Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy for Traumatic Brain Injury, and Dr. Hart was invited to address the Committee to discuss the cognitive consequences of TBI. The Committee will examine the evidence on cognitive rehabilitation to formulate recommendations for treatment of service members with TBI for the US Department of Defense.

Happenings: Activities, Conferences, Presentations and More

CLINICIAN'S CONFERENCE:

Members of the MossRehab clinical staff attended the 5th Annual TBI Model Systems Clinical Leadership Forum on April 13-16th at The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR) in Houston, Texas. Information was shared regarding sexuality after TBI, safety and fall prevention, electronic medical records, and, education for patients and families. Lisa Pinder and Susan Robinson, from MossRehab, led a forum discussion on the content of Team Rounds.

EMPOWERMENT GROUP MEETING:

The Brain Injury Empowerment Group's annual SUMMER CELEBRATION will be held on **Monday June 13th** from 6-8pm at the Elkins Park campus. Come catch up with old friends. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Need more info? Call Katie Soreth-Harman at 215-663-6757 or Roberta Brooks at 215-456-9901, ext. 69209.

FAMILY SYMPOSIA

The Moss TBI Model System, in partnership with the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, is planning a regional symposium for persons with brain injury and their families in Northeastern PA in the **Fall of 2011**. These symposia are designed to reach out to people affected by brain injury who live in underserved portions of our Commonwealth. Prior symposia, conducted in 2009 and 2010, reached more than 250 people and sparked ideas and relationships that are still going strong. Participants appreciate the opportunity to interact, network, and discuss topics of interest with local experts. If you are interested in joining the planning committee for the upcoming symposium in Northeastern Pennsylvania, please contact Monica Vaccaro at mvaccaro@einstein.edu.

INTERAGENCY CONFERENCE

The 3rd Inter-Agency Conference on Traumatic Brain Injury will be held June 13-15 in Washington, DC. This every-5-years event brings together researchers, clinicians, and all governmental agencies involved in TBI research and policy, with a special emphasis this year on promoting civilian-military research collaborations. Tessa Hart, PhD, Director of the Moss TBIMS, is on the Planning Committee for the conference and will be giving 4 different symposium presentations. John Whyte, MD, PhD and Thomas Watanabe, MD will also be presenting.

UPCOMING CLINICAL CONFERENCES

MossRehab will host a Concussion Management and Sports Medicine Conference on **Friday, July 8th** at the Hilton Garden Inn, Fort Washington. Kevin Guskiewicz, a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Conference Concussion Committee and the National Football League's Head, Neck and Spine Committee will be providing the Keynote Address, " Pathophysiology and Sequelae of Concussion". Dr. Watanabe, Clinical Director of MossRehab's Drucker Brain Injury Center, will be discussing "Current Guidelines for Acute Assessment and Return to Play".

In the Fall of 2011, MossRehab will conduct another full-day conference on brain injury rehabilitation for professionals. Watch for information posted on mossrehabconference.com.

MossRehab at Elkins Park Hospital
50 E. Township Line Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027
ATTN: Kelly Bogner

March 23: Our Annual Blue Jean Day!

Blue Jean Day is an annual effort of the Drucker Brain Injury Center (DBIC) to raise awareness about brain injury in the local community, and to raise funds. Some of this year's funds will go to neighboring schools to educate students about injury prevention. Blue Jean Day works through several entities within the Albert Einstein Medical Center, with DBIC at the lead, and local schools and businesses allow employees who have purchased a Blue Jean Day Button to dress casually on that day. This year, over 1,100 buttons were sold and more than $1,800 was raised to support valuable programming at the MossRehab DBIC Clubhouse Programs.
Thanks for your support!

The Moss TBI Model System

- The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research has designated MossRehab as a Model System of Care for traumatic brain injury since 1997.
- The TBI Model System program seeks to improve lives by creating and disseminating new knowledge about the course, treatment and outcomes of TBI.